

INSIDE: 20 PAGES OF COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!

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## RASH TALK

Parks Dept. going after party poopers!

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

The Parks Department says it will go after the party-planning company whose unpermitted event drew thousands of people and massive amounts of litter — to Prospect Park on Sunday.

"In reference to your inquiry, we are looking into our options available to recover any damages," Parks spokesman Phil Abramson wrote in an e-mail to The Brooklyn Paper hours after the newspaper's Web site revealed on Monday that a Prospect Heights-based company called MIH Ventures had promoted a huge — and apparently illegal — gathering called "Heartwave" that trashed the once-stately greenspace.

"I'm appalled," said one park user, who requested anonymity because she is a park volunteer. "I've never seen it like this. It was a blanket of trash. This was some serious irresponsibility, not your usual weekend of picnic."

The ninth annual gathering did not have the required permit, said Eugene Patron of the Prospect Park Alliance, making it impossible for park crews to know that such a big event was scheduled.

"It's enough work just to clean up after all the permitted events!" said Patron.

City rules require a permit for any event that is expected to draw more than 25 people, he said.



**PIGS' STY:** Prospect Park was again in shambles for hours on Monday morning after a huge, unpermitted gathering on the Long Meadow on Sunday.

"But in this case, there were hundreds," Patron said. "There are pictures on Twitter!" Though Patron said that city officials and Parks workers did not know about the event in advance, plenty of people did. MIH Ventures sent out an electronic invitation via Evite days earlier and promised a party that would be "the outdoor event of the summer."

"For eight years straight, MIH Ventures has hosted the premiere event of the summer, as we bring together patrons, clients, associates, friends and family for a day

in the park," this year's invitation read. "Last year, we had over 1,000 people bless us with their presence and as we continue to grow, so does the size of the event. This year we expect nothing but more beautiful faces, food, and fun."

"We're taking over Prospect Park...are you with us?!" it added. MIH Ventures did not return calls and e-mails. No one was at the company's office on Bergen Street in Prospect Heights this week, and a neighbor said that she had not seen company President Jonvan Horn-

### Meadows of



SHAME

shy in three days, an indication perhaps that he is in hiding. Readers have been especially keyed in to the sorry state of Prospect Park this summer after a series of stories in The Brooklyn Paper have alerted the public to the ongoing trash problem.

As a result, our inbox has been filled with complaints about the condition of the park. "It took about 40 people and two Parks Department dumptrucks about four hours to clean up that mess," said one park worker. "The thing that burns me about this the most was watching all the little kids streaming into the park [on Monday] as we were cleaning this mess up. About 400 small children are in day camp at that park as we speak, playing and sitting in the aftermath of that garbage, which was infested

See **PARK** on page 2



A version of a city plan to encourage new amusements and hotels in Coney Island passed a City Council committee on Tuesday.

## Coney flip-flop

Sitt pal now with mayor on Coney

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A key City Council committee signed off on Mayor Bloomberg's plan to redevelop Coney Island on Tuesday, hours after the city worked out the sweeter deals with labor unions, affordable housing advocates and the area's only remaining amusement park operator — deals that flipped key opponent of the deal into a supporter.

The last-minute deal to create more affordable housing, hire union workers and retain the independence of De- no's Wonder Wheel

Park satisfied Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island), who for months had opposed the mayor's plan to redevelop Coney Island, said Recchia, who belittled city officials at a hearing just two weeks ago and expressed his support for the neighborhood's main landowner, his friend Joe Sitt.

restaurants and other attractions in the area bounded by the Boardwalk, Surf Avenue, Keyspan Park and the Cyclone roller coaster.

The city also wants to build 4,500 new apartments in the more residential sections of Coney Island.

"This plan accomplishes the goal of making everyone happy enough that we can move forward toward a revitalized Coney Island," said Recchia, who belittled city officials at a hearing just two weeks ago and expressed his support for the neighborhood's main landowner, his friend Joe Sitt.

See **PHONY** on page 12



**FLASHBACK**

Oedipus Recchia

Councilman looks charge against Bloomberg as husband of past city

Two weeks ago.

## Marty to challenger: Not so fast

Beep looks to bounce beginner from ballot

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz is a shoo-in for a third term — yet the powerful beep isn't taking any chances, moving this week to knock his virtually unknown Democratic challenger off the ballot.

The challenger, Eugene Myrick, landed in just a few dozen more signatures than the 4,000 needed to secure a spot on the Sept. 15 primary ballot. Typically, candidates submit twice as many signatures as required in order to ward off challenges to the validity of the John Hancocks.

Three people — one of them, Debra Kresh-Garcia, a close ally of Markowitz — filed general objections to Myrick's signatures hours after he handed them in last week.

Kresh-Garcia is the director of

**COMPLETE ELECTION PACKAGE**  
SEE PAGE 14

Markowitz's annual Seaside Summer Concert Series and a contributor to Markowitz's re-election, having sent a \$175 check to the campaign earlier this year. After several calls and e-mail seeking comment, Kresh-Garcia wrote back only, "No comment."

Markowitz's re-election office did not offer a comment either. "It's ridiculous that someone would challenge a virtually unknown newcomer," said Myrick. "Why not let the democratic process play itself out with campaigning,

debates and allowing the people to vote. What are they afraid of?"

Myrick wondered why Markowitz would bother to challenge his candidacy, given that it has received virtually no notice so far and he has not emerged as a legitimate threat to Markowitz's expected landslide. Indeed, after the City Council repealed the two-term limit earlier this year, several better-known borough-presidential hopefuls immediately withdrew rather than challenge the popular Markowitz.

The Markowitz campaign is merely "trying to prevent me from focusing on campaigning," said Myrick, who publishes "Chocolate Brides Magazine" with his wife, radio personality Kesha Monk. And when he's campaigning, the process play itself out with campaigning,

See **MARTY** on page 14



Borough President Markowitz has a primary challenger — and the Beep's peeps are moving to knock him off the ballot.

Hey political junkies! The best local election Web site is coming soon!

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## DOUGH CANADA!

Tim Hortons displaces two Downtown Dunkin' Donuts

By Robert Voris

For The Brooklyn Paper

The Canadian donut invasion of Brooklyn has begun.

Tim Hortons, a 4,000-store coffee and donut chain that is Canada's Starbucks, McDonald's, H&M and Dunkin' Donuts all rolled into one, opened its first two Brooklyn stores on Monday.

Actually, the Dunkin' parallel is apt, given that both Hortons locations — at 22 Court St. and 61 Fulton St. in Downtown — replaced Dunkin' Donuts shops after the Canton, Mass.-based chain had a falling out with the Rene Organization, which owns the real estate in question.

Longtime Dunkin' customers weren't demonstrating much brand loyalty on Monday, willingly (and

in some cases, gladly) opting for the North of the Border baked goods and java.

"The appearance is a lot better, and I'm definitely going to come back this afternoon for cream of the broccoli soup," said Delirious Battle, as she grabbed an iced coffee — her regular order from the Dunkin' Donuts — on Monday morning at the Court Street shop.

At the Fulton Mall location, a woman named Karen told The Brooklyn Paper that the iced coffee is "delicious."

"It's frosty and it has a wonderful taste to it," she added.

Of course, this is New York, so the newcomer was lambasted in some quarters.

"Dunkin' Donuts was bad

See **DOUGH!** on page 2



Tim Hortons District Manager Adeline Pascallini shows off the two things for which the Canuck chain is famous: coffee and donuts.

## Boor's head

Porky animal sacrifice left at cemetery gate

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

A severed pig's head left outside the Green-Wood Cemetery was apparently a gift to the gods, but neighbors said the swine shrine was simply an assault on their senses. The festering pig cranium was spotted — and snelled — by passersby who discovered the decaying braincase surrounded by colored candles, coconuts, a glass of rum, cigars, flowers, and other offerings alongside the graveyard fence on Sixth Avenue between 23rd and 24th streets earlier this month.

"It reeked me out to be honest," said Teresa Taylor, who stumbled over the rotting trophy while walking home from work. "There was a head of a pig, almost skeleton-like, and a lot of flies around it. Some of the candles were still lit."

Taylor had no idea why someone would leave the decomposing boar and trinkets beside the cemetery, but Aaron Brashear — known to most as the Mayor of Green-Wood Heights — placed the blame on two possible parties.

Brashear, who stumbled upon a similar offering last

See **PIG HEAD** on page 12

## Fin-tastic

Sarah is the first girl to win Macy's fishing fest



**GILL POWER:** Sarah Murray is the first lass in years (and, some believe, ever) to win the Macy's Fishing Contest.

By Jared Foretek

For The Brooklyn Paper

Here's one girl who can swim with the big kids. Fort Greene's own Sarah Murray spanked the boys into submission in the 62nd annual Macy's Fishing Contest in Prospect Park this week, becoming the first girl in the competition's 62 years to win the grand prize.

This year's contest, which took place from July 15 to 19, had 3,885 contestants, most of them boys. But the 13-year-old Slingshot Sarah never let them faze her, staying focused through all five grueling days — the toughest in all of fishing, some pescephiles say — to emerge victorious with 22 fish caught (and released, by the way).

"It feels really good beating a bunch of guys," she said. "Girls can play any guys sports, and they can be just as good as guys at pretty much anything."

Like a latter-day Billie Jean King, Murray's triumph over her fishing foes began at the ripe age of 7, when her father — an angler himself — taught her the sweet science. Despite a complete lack of encouragement from her school, Brooklyn Friends, she reached the Lido deck of the fishing world.

"It's a Quaker show, so they're not really into the whole killing-fish thing," she said.



An Ikea water taxi — now \$10.

## Freeloaders to pay five bucks to ride Ikea ferry

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

There's no such thing as a free launch. Ikea will discontinue its universal free water taxi service and begin charging riders \$5 each way to travel by sea on weekdays to the Red Hook megastore if they don't spend \$10 in the home-furnishings and

Swedish-meatsballs palace.

The Aug. 3 fare hike is part of a summer transit shuffle at the one-year-old store that will extend the hours of the daily water taxi from 11 am to 9 pm between store's private dock and Pier 11 in Manhattan. We cannot continue ... a commuter service for those who are not Ikea customers," said manager Mike Baker.

Weekend ferry service will remain free of charge to all comers and the shuttle bus service to subway stations, now running from 1 to 9 pm daily, is also complimentary.

The water taxi and shuttle bus service became instantly popular when the store opened last year and boats were actually so crowded at one point that Ikea caused an uproar when

its customers were allowed to board the water taxis before non-shoppers.

Ikea provided the mass transit options in order to win public support for the big-box retail store that many hostile critics thought would clog Red Hook's quiet streets. A recent report found that Ikea-related traffic was less than predicted.

Under the new ticketing sys-

tem, everyone boarding in Manhattan must pay the \$5 fare, but passengers who spend more than \$10 in the store will have the round-trip fare deducted from their total.

As expected, no one is eager to shell out \$10 for the ride to Red Hook overall. "Nobody would come here if the ferry wasn't free," said

Jonny Winters, a visitor waiting for the ride back to Manhattan on Tuesday afternoon.

"Red Hook is out of the way. People aren't going to take a bus or a train to get here."

Others simply don't like the congestion-pricing solution that Ikea is imposing. "They shouldn't charge more, they should just have more ferries," said Flavia Walters.



Brandon Sage called the bamboo-cloth uniforms comfy.

# 'Re-Cyclones' win in their bamboo unis

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Who were the old wizards who came up with this one?

The Cyclones were reeling last week, drifting through a stretch of seven losses in nine games that led more than one scribe to describe them as a bunch of stiff.

And then the front office made the team wear uniforms made out of bamboo on Saturday night.

Insert stiff joke here!

But the Cyclones had the last laugh, beating the Auburn Doubledays 11-3 and looking anything but uncomfortable at the plate and in the field.

Before the game, players commended the cottony fabric, which, despite its bamboo roots, was anything but uncomfortable.

"I've never played baseball in my pajamas, but that's what it feels like," said leadoff hitter Justin Garber, who was 1-for-4, but scored two runs. "It's

very light and comfortable."

Relief pitcher Brandon Sage, who pitched two strong innings, also liked the new look, comparing them favorably to the only other uniform promotion he's endured during his career: the night that the University of Southern Alabama made him and his teammates wear camouflage outfits for "military night."

Seeing his team in different uniforms prompted manager Pedro Lopez into not-so-fond reminiscences of

his days in the minor leagues.

"I'd be on teams that would do the 'turn-back-the-clock' games and we'd have to wear these really uncomfortable double-knit uniforms," he said.

"Oh my, those were hot. I do like that these are comfortable, even if the green [in the recycle logo] clashes with our usual team colors. But a comfortable uniform should be good for us, anything to get the guys loose."

It must have worked: The Cyclones hit four home runs on the night in an

11-hit barrage.

And rightfielder John Servidio made the ultimate demonstration of comfort and relaxation, throwing out a runner with a perfect one-hop toss to the plate.

He was also 2-for-3 at the plate — the two hits being mammoth homers.

Alas, the uniforms were raffled off after the game — and the team returned to its losing ways on Monday night in Vermont.

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## Skipper to Cyclones: Straighten up or else

By Andy Hoffman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Manager Pedro Lopez held a long closed-door meeting with his struggling Brooklyn Cyclones after last Thursday afternoon's loss — the seventh in the team's last nine games.

The theme, Lopez said after, was simple: "Turn it around now."

"We are trying too hard," Lopez told his players. "We started the season 16-2 for a reason [and] we have to go back to that type of mindset."

The Cyclones' early season run was the team's best start ever — and included a 10-game winning streak. But since then, the team has struggled — and Lopez senses that his players are putting too much pressure on themselves.

"At times, these guys are pressing instead of doing what we were doing at the beginning of the season," Lopez told the cream of the Brooklyn sports press corps after Thursday's 3-1 loss to Williamsport. "I understand that this franchise is important for this organization, but I want those guys to step up and play baseball."

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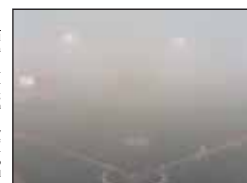
Fogged-up Keyspan helps earn Clones a win

By Jared Foretek  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Cyclones are so good that even Mother Nature is a big fan.

The proof came in last Friday's showdown with the Auburn Doubledays when a fog swooped in during the fifth inning and refused to budge.

Despite the murky skies, the game continued. But in the bottom half of the inning, Cyclone slugger John Servidio hit a ground ball past second base that disappeared in the merciless vapors — in fact, the Auburn centerfielder ac-



The Cyclones' game on Friday night was halted by fog — with the Clones leading 1-0.

tually ran back towards the outfield wall.

Auburn's manager Dennis Holmberg had seen enough, demanding that the umpires delay the game. The men in blue complied, but Holmberg should have been careful about what he wished for, after a half-hour fog delay, the Cyclones were declared the winners.

Afterwards, Cyclones Manager Pedro Lopez smiled like an Englishman in a misty Trafalgar Square.

"We'll take this win," he said.

## Matt Bouchard is out for the year!

By Andy Hoffman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Matt Bouchard, we hardly knew ye!

The longtime Cyclone star infielder has been injured again — and had season-ending surgery to his labrum last Friday. Last season, the 22-year-old Bouchard was injured with a left hip strain that sidelined the future Mets infielder.

Losing Bouchard — who was hitting .408 (and slugging .592) — has forced skipper Pedro Lopez to shakeup his lineup repeatedly.

And the team has also missed the on-field support and off-field coaching of Bouchard — who has been a Cyclone (on and off) for three years. "Matt has helped the kids in the

clubhouse who are new to this experience," Lopez said. "He was that guy that brought comfort that you need in the lineup and in the clubhouse."

"But Matt really has no business being here because he's that good of a player. He's definitely a major-league player," Lopez concluded.

As fans say, wait 'til next year!

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## D'OH

Continued from page 1  
enough, but this is worse," said Carstiel Parker, referring to the \$1.39 price of a small cup of coffee.

She also pronounced herself underwhelmed by the glazed cruller and was appalled by the lack of public restroom at the Fulton Street location, calling it a sufficient reason to "boycott" the restaurant.

Borough President Markowitz, who has been known to eat a donut or two in his day, grabbed a skim-diet cappuccino and a Timbit before welcoming the foreign company to Kings County.

"We have a lot of Canadians in Brooklyn," he said. "I've always enjoyed Tim Hortons whenever I go north."

Markowitz also offered some business advice to Jamie Galler, senior executive vice president of the Riese Organization.

"[Tell them to] make a Kosher donut and open some stores in Borough Park," Markowitz recommended. "The religious Jewish market is huge!"

The Tim Hortons donut megalith is named for Tim Horton, the hockey star who opened his first shop in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1964 while in the midst of a Hall of Fame career with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Now, the restaurant sells more than 60 percent of all coffee in Canada, and claims to pour more than two billion cups each year. By comparison, Starbucks provides 42 percent of our caffeine fixes.

## PARK

Continued from page 1  
with rats."

Worse, said the volunteer was that the party was easily found with a quick Google search.

"This barbecue has been going on for almost 10 years, with apparently no restrictions/requirements for trash and security?" she asked. "If you log on to Twitter, and do a search on Prospect Park, you can surf through the thousands of young people comments about how the cops watched them drink and smoke pot, and just basically get their party on for hours, and didn't do anything about it until the park's closing hour — then they shut the party down."

"I cleaned up hundreds of liquor and beer bottles, and more than two dozen drug baggies — what the hell?"

— with Jacob Kleinman



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## THE STORIES

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

## State sinks garage plan

### Joralemon tenants win underground battle

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

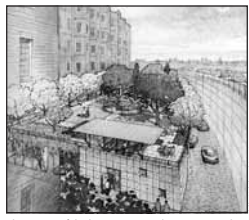
A state agency has sunk a landlord's plans to construct an underground garage topped with a garden behind an historic Joralemon Street apartment complex.

The Division of Housing and Community Renewal objected to building owner Joel Weiner's request for the 90-car garage because it called for unfreezing rents in the 119-year-old Riverside Apartments — where rents have been locked since a previous landlord paved over a portion of the courtyard and play area for parking spaces more than a decade ago.

The state ruled last Tuesday that erecting a green-roofed garage behind the Alfred T. White-designed buildings wouldn't fully restore the courtyard and play area, so the restoration of the original rents could not be justified.

"The courtyard/play area was meant for recreational use by the tenants," rent administrator Lilia Albano wrote in a document obtained by The Brooklyn Paper.

"The proposed plan does



The owner of the historic Riverside apartments lost a battle with tenants to build a one-story garage and top it with a garden.

not ameliorate the situation," she continued. "This proposal is in direct conflict with the intended use of this area."

The state's decision also emphasized the importance of several mature trees that survived the 1950s construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, which leveled about half of the apartment complex, and the 1990s construction of parking spaces in

the courtyard, which claimed much of the greenspace.

Residents of the building complex were pleased — and shocked — by the state's decision.

"This is stunning," said Riverside Tenant Association Chairman William Ringler. "This is not only a victory for the Riverside Tenants, but it's a victory for tenants in the entire city. This proves

that tenants have a right to a healthy living environment, and owners don't have a carte blanche."

Early plans to construct an above-grade garage with a garden met harsh resistance over environmental and aesthetic concerns — though the Landmarks Preservation Commission later approved the current design.

After the Landmarks approval, tenants feared that their only hope to halt the project would be the discovery of architectural relics in the soil beneath the courtyard that. No relics were found.

The state's decision is a blow to the garage proposal, but the door hasn't closed on the project entirely, said Weiner's attorney, Ken Fisher — a former Brooklyn Heights councilman.

"Obviously, we are disappointed at this initial determination, but there are other levels of review at the agency, which we will be pursuing," Fisher said. "Ultimately, we are confident that our Landmarks Commission-approved project will move forward and meet the needs of both community residents for parking as well as for tenants of the building."

### COBBLE HILL

## School expands by subtraction

### Firehouse will add 40 pupils, but no special-needs kids

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

An elite private school's expansion plans in Cobble Hill have renewed debate about its decision last year to cut a highly touted special education program.

The Brooklyn Heights Montessori School, on Bergen Street in Cobble Hill, recently purchased an old firehouse on nearby Dean Street from the city as part of its goal to increase the enrollment of the 250-seat institution by about 40 new pupils.

"The ability to expand our campus, and to be able to do it at one location, will allow us to fulfill our current strategic plan of growing our enrollment and further strengthening programmatic excellence," Dane Smith, the school's head, said in a statement announcing the purchase last month.

Those plans also call for moving the Little Room, the award-winning program for 27 special needs 3- and 4-year-



The Montessori school on Bergen Street between Court and Smith streets says it will expand into the old fire station on Dean Street.

olds to another organization, possibly the League Treatment Center, a center in DUMBO for children and adults with autism and other disabilities.

Any deal would require state approval.

Some worry that future special ed students will lose the developmental benefits that come from being around mainstream classes if they're taught in isolation.

"It's very disheartening," said Joyce Creidy, the mother of twins graduating this summer from Little Room. "The Little Room is in a nice space in a real school. The League Treatment Center is more of an institutionalized setting."

A call to the League was not returned.

The push to separate the Little Room from the Brooklyn Heights Montessori School is due to irreconcilable financial and philosophical differences, Smith said, explaining that the state-regulated special-ed track is incompatible with the independent Montessori teaching model, in which students do not receive grades.

It's also a drain on the school's resources because the state's reimbursements do not cover the Little Room's expenses. Its students do not pay tuition either.

"It couldn't sustain itself. We would have had to cut staff salaries," Smith told The Brooklyn Paper. "The physical plant is costly. The state will only pay so much for overhead."

### BAY RIDGE

## Rosemarie O'Keefe, GOP stalwart, 65

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

Rosemarie O'Keefe, the heart and soul of Bay Ridge's tight-knit Republican community, died of cancer on July 17. She was 65.

The right-wing activist's political career started with block associations in Bay Ridge and earned her a spot in City Hall, but she always remained dedicated to her neighborhood and Republican causes.

The Fort Hamilton HS graduate entered the political sphere when she organized a block association on 75th Street to combat a proposal to install parking meters on her street.

Soon, she was traversing the neighborhood as a bona fide community organizer, bringing together the neighborhood's disparate street groups under the banner of the Alliance of Bay Ridge Block Associations, an organization she co-founded.

O'Keefe's hard work and tireless devotion to the Republican party caught the attention of Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who made her Commissioner of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit, where she resisted families of victims of the 9-11 attacks.



Rosemarie O'Keefe was a longtime presence on the Bay Ridge political scene. In 2004, she got a warm greeting from her former boss, Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Friends remember her as a staunch preservationist who was always working to restore her 81st Street Victorian home, and as a loyal Bay Ridge resident committed to graffiti clean-ups and volunteer efforts.

Political allies say that O'Keefe — who nearly beat former state Sen. Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) in a 2003 special election for the City Council — will be best remembered for her dedication to the Grand Old Party.

"She had a very strong determined streak about it. When she set her mind to something, it was either her way or her way," said Bob Capano, who is following in O'Keefe's footsteps by running as a Republican against now-Councilman Dennis. "Whether she was fighting against historic homes being torn down and turned into condos, or the direction of the Republican Party, she always fought for the good of the neighborhood."

But friends are quick to note O'Keefe's dedication to another party — the annual Republican "Christmas" party.

The vocal activist relied on her ceaseless work ethic and fierce resolve to ensure that all of the neighborhood's Republican leaders took part in the festivity, which O'Keefe insisted be called a "Christmas party," not a "holiday party."

At the beginning of the celebration, O'Keefe, ever "in-sistent and persistent," would distribute songbooks to attendees and force all of the guests — including Republican dignitaries like state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) — to sing Christmas Carols, particularly the "The 12 Days of Christmas."

"Although it was important for her to have to have political identity, she also made everything a lot of fun," said Roni Pawson, current Republican District Leader of Bay Ridge's 60th Assembly District.

"She was able to get groups of people to work together for a common good."

O'Keefe is survived by her husband, William; her sister Sandy; and two nephews and two nieces.

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# This crime is just plain nauseating!

## 90TH PRECINCT

**Williamsburg-Bushwick**  
Bar employees and drinkers pummeled a reveler who had a bit too much booze on July 18.

The nauseating night started when the 28-year-old victim — who had been enjoying an evening with his girlfriend at the Bushwick Country Club — began vomiting while seated at the bar at around 2:45 a.m.

A bar staffer attempted to soothe the hurling hooligan from the Grand Street venue, but the upchucking Brooklynite vomited on the employee's shirt, police reports indicate.

That's when this story goes from disgusting to dangerous.

After forcing the spewer out of the venue, a female bartender doused the victim in water and struck him in the head with a plastic bucket — leaving a laceration that required seven stitches, cops said.

Then a gang of drinkers from the bar roughed up the victim on the sidewalk in front of the venue, which is between Lorimer and Leon streets.

**Sirens' slug**  
Four women lured an 18-year-old victim into a park on Rodney Street on July 18 — only to lead him to a vicious beating.

The sirens told the victim, who was returning from the Mt. Carmel Feast at around 10:30 p.m., to follow them

the greenspace at the corner of S. Fourth Street. But when the victim entered the park, he encountered eight men armed with bottles and baseball bats.

The victim tried to run away, but the assailants tripped him and attacked him, leaving the man with cuts to the back of his head that required stitches.

**Carjack attack!**  
A gang of armed carjackers heisted a Mazda and a van on Porter Avenue just after midnight on July 17.

A pair of crooks — who arrived at the scene of the crime on a motorcycle — pulled a gun on a 60-year-old driver as he parked his four-door sedan between Harrison Place and Ingraham Street.

The thieves forced the wheelman and his passengers out of the car and made off with the Mazda.

Meanwhile, a third crook pointed a firearm at two workers who were loading goods into a white Ford van on the same block.

"Don't move, give me the keys to [the] van," the crook shouted.

The witnesses handed over the keys and the robber drove off in the van.

**Big break in**  
Crooks stole everything they could from a Maspeth Avenue apartment on July 16 — including the victim's car!

The thieves burst through the green space at the corner of S. Fourth Street. But when the victim entered the park, he encountered eight men armed with bottles and baseball bats.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

the front door of the residence between 6:45 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. and grabbed a 37-inch television, checkbook, \$100, two laptops and three iPads. They also stole the victim's car keys and made off with his Honda Pilot, which was parked in front of the residence between Humboldt and Olive streets.

**Bite**  
Hip hop hooligans stole a drum machine from a Thames Street recording studio overnight on July 19.

The culprits broke into the loft, which is between Porter and Knickerbocker avenues, and grabbed the beat maker — valued by cops at \$1,700.

Once inside, the thief heisted a Motorola cell phone, Dell laptop, Panasonic digital camera, and a black leather wallet.

**Vicious cyclist**  
A two-wheeled bandit snatched a 22-year-old woman's cell phone in a July 18 bike-by mugging.

The thief — riding a "yellow and black Mongolian-type bicycle" according to police reports — grabbed the BlackBerry phone from the victim's hands near the corner of Devoe and Lorimer streets at around 5 p.m.

**Heavy metal**  
Cops nabbed a burglar suspected of heisting scrap metal from a Grand Street construction site on July 20.

Witnesses spotted the crook cut a chain to get into the construction site at around 8:10 p.m. and haul scrap metal — valued at \$1,000 — to his car.

But police locked up a 25-year-old suspect at the scene of the crime, which is

between Reeling Street and Driggs Avenue.

**Sour dreams**  
A burglar raided a Graham Avenue apartment overnight on July 19 — while the resident was asleep!

The crook got into the apartment, which is between Scherles and Meserole streets, through an unlocked rear window between 11:30 p.m. and 8 a.m. the following day.

Once inside, the thief heisted a Motorola cell phone, Dell laptop, Panasonic digital camera, and a black leather wallet.

**Traveler's wreck**  
A crook picked the lock to get into a Grand Street apartment while the resident was away between July 17 and 19.

Once inside the residence, which is between Humboldt Street and Graham Avenue, the crook stole a laptop, an MP3 player, and a camera.

**58th Precinct**  
The perp approached the victim at around 10:30 a.m. and asked the ultimate no-win question: "You got a problem?"

When the victim replied, the thief inquired about the biked lying nearby. When the victim replied that it belonged to him, the thief then pulled out the screwdriver and rode away from the spot, which

the attack actually occurred on May 25 near the entrance to the park at 14th Street and Prospect Park West, but the victim did not report it until last week because no charges had yet surfaced on his credit card statement.

But once the \$785 worth of charges appeared, the Windsor Terrace man marched to the 78th Precinct stationhouse and told cops how the two thugs had approached him at around 2 p.m. and started pummeling him.

**IGone**  
A thief moved in quickly to snatch a fancy iPhone from a Manhattan woman who was working on the top-of-the-line device as she walked on 10th Street on July 15.

The victim told cops that she was just sitting on her front stoop, which is near Eighth Avenue, when a teenage girl sneaked over to her and grabbed it.

The perp then fled down 13th Street after the 9 p.m. attack.

**Shannon Gels**  
The perp approached the victim at around 10:30 a.m. and asked the ultimate no-win question: "You got a problem?"

When the victim replied, the thief inquired about the biked lying nearby. When the victim replied that it belonged to him, the thief then pulled out the screwdriver and rode away from the spot, which

is in the middle of the park along the Center Drive.

The victim chased after the perp, but soon gave up.

**Purse snatch**  
A thug grabbed a Queens woman's purse on Third Avenue on July 19.

The victim was near 10th Street at around 3 a.m. when she was approached by the perp, who commanded her to give him her purse, she told cops. When she demurred, the thug quickly snatched it and ran toward Second Avenue and jewelry.

**Stoop swipe**  
A thief swiped a woman's iPhone as she sat on her 13th Street stoop on July 15.

The victim told cops that she was just sitting on her front stoop, which is near Eighth Avenue, when a teenage girl sneaked over to her and grabbed it.

The perp then fled down 13th Street after the 9 p.m. attack.

**88th Precinct**  
Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

**Senior swindle**  
Two octogenarians were fleeced in similar circumstances by a pair of thieving women last week.

On July 16, an 81-year-old woman fell victim to a pair of ladies she met at the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Adelphi Street. They offered to buy her jewelry for \$10,000, but when the grande dame handed over two pendants, a necklace, bracelet and diamond ring at 12:30 p.m., she got nothing in return, as the terror two women sneaked away around the corner.

The following day, an 82-year-old woman was victimized in a more prolonged swindle that began at the corner of Waverly and Greene avenues.

Two women forced the matron into a car at 11 a.m. and demanded her money. The victim gave them \$45, but that was not enough to sate the villains, who brought the lady home and stole \$1,900 from her.

Next, they took her to her bank, where she was forced to withdraw \$1,000 from her account. She was dropped several blocks away, at St. James Place and Fulton Street, before the monies fled.

**Bank bust**  
A bank robber netted \$4,000 by peacefully holding up a Citibank on Myrtle Avenue on July 14.

The culprit slipped a note to the teller at 4 p.m. in the location between Clinton and Waverly avenues before escaping with four big ones.

**Ax not**  
Thieves stole several guitars from a music store in the Atlantic Terminal Mall on two occasions last week.

Police were called to the Guitar Center, which is on Flatbush Avenue between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue, on July 13 and July 16 after employees realized that six electric guitars and two acoustic pieces were missing.

**Take a stab**  
A reprobate skewered a stranger's head with an unidentified object during an argument in Fort Greene Park on July 13.

The victim, 31, suffered injuries to his car and temple at 9:40 a.m. near the corner of Wiloughby and Carlton avenues. Paramedics took him to Long Island College Hospital for treatment.

**Sub-human**  
Two thugs mugged a woman at the entrance to the C train at Fulton and S. Portland Avenues on July 12.

The police report said that

the crooked pair snatched the 24-year-old woman's purse at 1 a.m. on the stairwell and got away with a cellphone, ID and a debit card.

**84TH PRECINCT**  
Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

**House party**  
A group of thieves forced their way into a man's house at gunpoint on July 6 and paraded for three hours in the victim's apartment before fleeing with \$22,860 in clothing and jewelry.

The victim told police that three thugs followed him home after he exited the Borough Hall subway station at 1 a.m. and held a knife to his back when he reached his apartment, which is on Joralemon Street between Henry and Clinton streets.

Once inside the apartment, the thieves ransacked the apartment, drank the victim's alcohol, and watched a movie. One thief demanded the secret code to the victim's ATM card, and then left to make a withdrawal.

**Salon scare**  
A thief robbed a hair salon on Nevins Street at gunpoint on July 16, making off with \$2,080 cash.

The gun-wielding thug entered the store, which is between Livingston and Fulton streets, at 8:30 p.m. and waved the gun at the two employees, yelling, "You know what this is, so don't move, don't say anything!"

The thief led the employees to the bathroom and demanded, "Where's the money at?" The thief disappeared back into the store, and five minutes later, the victims heard the front door close. When they exited the bathroom the thief and the money were gone.

**Plus-sized theft**  
A woman's wallet was stolen while she was shopping at Lane Bryant on Fulton Street on July 10.

The victim told police she forgot her wallet on a chair at the plus-sized woman's clothing store, which is at the corner of Smith Street, at 6:50 p.m. She realized her mistake a few minutes later but her wallet, with \$560, had already been nabbed.

**Sticky fingers**  
A smooth criminal robbed a woman on July 11 while she was grocery shopping on Montague Street — and he was so smooth, in fact, that the victim didn't notice until he had already committed the crime.

The victim said she was at the store, which is between Henry and Hicks streets, at 4:15 p.m. when she noticed that \$200 had been swiped from her pocketbook.

**Thief chorus**  
Two repetitive thieves mugged a man at the corner of Bridge and York streets on July 9.

The victim told police that the two thugs approached him around midnight, and the first said, "Give me everything you got." The second thug echoed the demand, adding, "Give him everything you got!"

The first thief then punched the victim in the face and grabbed his iPod.

**Car crimes**  
Thieves must have been in a hurry last week, because at least four cars were stolen or broken into. Here's a roundup:

• A Honda Civic was stolen from Pacific Street on July 5. The victim told police that he had parked the car between Bond and Nevins streets at 4 p.m. and returned four hours later to find it gone.

• A thief heisted into a car on

See **BLOTTER** on page 12

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# All Greek to them!

Alert the Web gods — someone has turned Bay Ridge Rover blog into total gibberish!

By Ben Muesig  
The Brooklyn Paper

A once-popular Bay Ridge blog — the Bay Ridge Rover — has been taken over by a would-be Greek tycoon who has destroyed everything that the Rover stood for.

Especially local knowledge. Fans of the acclaimed blog, which mysteriously ceased publication last fall, were shocked when new posts appeared on the long-defunct Web site last week.

And they were even more surprised by the content of the posts, which transformed the blog from a hub of hard-hitting Bay Ridge analysis to a smattering of innocuous gibberish about non-existent shopping malls and restaurants.

"Huh? What is this? Who hijacked Rover?" wrote one commenter on the Web site.

In a sharp reversal from the Rover's previous incarnation as a hyper-local news and commentary blog, the new Web site consists of incoherent ramblings that seem like they were



written from, well, halfway around the world.

A July 17 post extols on imaginary Bay Ridge eateries like "Purple Haze," allegedly an Italian restaurant "tucked away in the serene embrace of Cherry Bay in the South East of Bay Ridge," and the made-up "Hotel Prime Sweden," which allegedly serves a popular meatball dish in the so-called "Columbia area" of Bay Ridge.

In a piece titled, "Bay Ridge, all set to stand tall," the pseudo-Rover claims that the neighborhood is undergoing an "increase in immigrants, especially the Irish and Italians," while a post titled, "The place to be" describes the nearby neighborhoods of "Green Park, Rock Avenue and Shopbush."

This is only a sampling of the peculiar

reportage that has turned the once-savvy community blog into a bizarre hub of misinformation — and Web-connected Ridgites aren't happy about it.

"I don't get it. You must be blogging from an alternate universe," a commenter named Tara exclaimed after a particularly strange article touted fictional Bay Ridge stores like "Eva Mall Stop," "Electronica Mall," "Sparkle," and "Jacy's."

But the new Rover told The Brooklyn Paper that he's trying as hard as he can to cover Bay Ridge — even though he's doing it from Greece.

"We intend to bring the site back to [its] previous glory either by keeping it [on] our network and updating it often, or giving it to someone in-

terested [in] it," said Stelios Vathrakokis, who noted that he decided to purchase the site because his grandfather was one of the first Greek immigrants in Bay Ridge.

"When I saw the site being filled with filthy ads and having lost all the content it used to have, I decided to pay the price and try to at least bring the old content back and then to add new articles," he said. "Although it is hard for me to keep the standards the old site had, at least I try."

But the founder of the Bay Ridge Rover — touched by The Brooklyn Paper for his first-ever interview — tells a slightly different story.

The elusive blogger — the neighborhood's second most trusted news source — explained that Vathrakokis purchased the site in hopes of making money off of the Rover's Web traffic after the real Rover allowed his ownership of the domain to lapse.

"When [domains expire], other companies come in and buy them, then lead them up with Google ads, and loads nonsense posts with key words for hits," the mysterious Rover wrote in a text message. "That's what happened here."

For his part, the original Rover feels no need to return to the Bay Ridge blogosphere — even as his site is losing its good name.

"Bay Ridge doesn't need a blog, it needs a miracle. It's a small pretty town run by clowns," he said. "The Rover will never return."

## 'General' sign provokes ire

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

A DUMBO entrepreneur has ended years of peaceful anonymity and started a riveting neighborhood debate by simply hanging a sign.

The new sign, with the eatery's name on it, was installed last week outside the DUMBO General Store on Front Street and provoked a surprising backlash from some regular customers who preferred the obscurity of the previous sign, which merely advertised, "Cafe/Bar."

"I liked the vague insider-feel of the old sign," said Maya Polton, a Park Slope resident who works in the neighborhood. Polton only learned the establishment's true name from a veteran co-worker who has spent years down beneath the Manhattan Bridge overpass.

Other regulars also told The Brooklyn Paper that the recently installed sign disturbed the hideaway vibe.

"It used to be like a speakeasy," said one man, who declined to give his name because he didn't want to upset the owner.

The manager of the General Store acknowledged that the brown sign with white lettering provoked a "mixed reaction," but said that the prior nameless entrance was not ideal for generating business.

"Secretive is nice to a degree," said the manager, Thom Pitts. "But to actually have customers, it doesn't pay." It's worse for attracting employees.

Pitts, who's been working at the General Store for two months, said he couldn't find the café when he was scheduled to meet the owner for a job interview.



There's finally a sign at the DUMBO General Store, which has been called that for years, despite an anonymous sign reading only "Cafe/Bar." Of course, this being Brooklyn, the new sign is quite controversial.

The proper signage, of course, can eliminate these snafus. But the new sign is allegedly causing some confusion among visitors.

Tourists are often disappointed that they haven't arrived at a frontier-style trading post, said Pitts. (That disappointment often changes, however, when they have the coffee or the sublime breakfast sandwich.)

That something as trivial as a relatively minor alteration to a storefront can provoke such a response is both a testament to the lingering small-town atmosphere in DUMBO, as well as the role the General Store

played in the evolution of the previously derelict warehouse district.

When Anna Castellani opened the DUMBO General Store, about nine years ago, it was actually an arts supply store in a neighborhood emerging from a post-industrial torpor into a hive buzzing with creative output.

Back then, there was a post — the first of three — which identified the shop as the general store.

The transformation to coffee shop began when Castellani bought a cappuccino machine for personal use because it was impossible to get a gourmet cup of joe nearby.

Soon, friends and neighbors started dropping in for coffee and Castellani switched to selling an artist's most important supply — caffeine — and almost no one paid attention to the name.

"First, we just called the store 'Anna's,' then the insiders called it DGS [for DUMBO General Store]," said Marc Dennis, a 10-year resident.

Whether people love or hate the sign, it's put the DUMBO General Store on the map.

"It does its job," said Dan Gunderman, who works in DUMBO. "Now, everyone knows where it is."

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 24, 2009

## Lawn party

Life's a picnic. Let GO Brooklyn help cater yours

By Thomas Nocera  
and Jared Forelek  
for The Brooklyn Paper

June was a complete washout, so now it's time to fully embrace the picnic — and the good news is that The Brooklyn Paper is here to help with our first annual park-by-park guide to the perfect picnic.

One word of caution that our lawyers made us put in: Despite our recommendation to purchase various forms of alcohol to enjoy wantonly on your picnic, it is absolutely illegal to drink booze in public parks. That doesn't mean we don't do it, of course, but as far as our lawyers are concerned, we really actually don't do it. Still, you should feel emboldened to browse the stores in our field guide below and take your chances.

Bottom's up!

### Fort Greene Park

Bordered by DeKalb Avenue, Myrtle Avenue, Washington Park and Cumberland Street.

This 1897 Olmsted and Vaux classic is the perfect place for a picnic, yet there aren't many picnic outfitters within walking distance. That's why we suggest heading straight for Any Bennett and Jason Richelson's **Greene Grape Provisions** (753 Fulton St., at Carlton Avenue, (718) 233-2700), where you'll enjoy a vast selection of meats, cheeses, breads, and fruits. A manager told us that there's no better way to enjoy a proper *déjeuner sur l'herbe* than by getting some Fleur Vert (51¢ per pound), a French cheese, which is a fancy way of saying goat's milk cheese.

Greene Grape Provisions is an offshoot of Bennett's wine store nearby, but you can also head for **Thirst Wine Merchants** (187 DeKalb Ave. between Cumberland Street and Carlton Avenue, (718) 596-7643) to pick up a bottle, no make that a box, of vino. To remain inconspicuous, a manager recommended Yellow and Blue, an Argentinian white (51¢), which is not as discreet, but it's also made with organic grapes.

### Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park

Bounded by Main Street, Water Street, New Dock Street and the East River.

This grassy spot looks out on the East River and the Lower Manhattan skyline, and sits close enough to the Brooklyn Bridge to enjoy a feast for the eyes (but far enough to not be bused by the traffic number). You'll only need to make two stops to gather your goods, and both are within blocks of the park. Start at **Foragers** (56 Front St., at Adams Street, (718) 801-8400) to do the bulk of your shopping. This



Picture perfect picnic? Our crack team of picnic purveyors did a beautiful job putting together this delicious-looking lunch in the ideal setting of Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park in DUMBO.

DUMBO store has become a staple of the neighborhood's gourmet food scene. While not inexpensive by any stretch, the market offers everything a picnicer needs from a bottle of San Pellegrino (\$2.95) to soprano salami (\$18.99 per pound) to a surprisingly vast selection of cheeses, fruit, fresh breads and other essentials. For dessert, grab a chocolate chip cookie from the Willy Wonka of Water Street, **Jacques Torres** (66 Water St. between Main and Dock streets, (718) 875-9772).

### Prospect Park

Bounded by Flatbush Avenue, Prospect Park West, Parkside Avenue, Prospect Park Southwest and Grand Army Plaza.

The grandest park in Brooklyn has many excellent spots for picnickers, though Seventh Avenue is the main picnic-shopping drag. Park Slopers should start at **Blue Apron Foods** (114 Union St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues, (718) 230-3180), which offers a wide range of meats and cheeses and has quickly become a neighborhood

favorite since its opening in 2002. The cow's milk Tomme Caille from France (\$18.25 per pound) is a great choice. Head down Seventh Avenue to **Shawn Wines and Spirits** (141 Seventh Ave. between Garfield Place and Carroll Street, (718) 622-7947), which has been in business for 27 years. A wise manager pointed us towards a Broadbent Vinho Verde white (99¢), which went down easy (though not — we repeat, not — in the park). Windsor Terrace residents should head straight for **Grab** (438 Seventh Ave. between 14th and 15th Streets, (718) 369-7959). Much like Blue Apron, Grab — which opened in 2007 — offers outstanding meats and cheeses, the foremost of which being the prosciutto cotto with herbs (\$14.95 per pound). Also nearby is **Big Nose Bull** (382 Seventh Ave. between 11th and 12th Streets, (718) 369-4030), where another wise manager suggested a Chilean Sauvignon Blanc (99¢).

### East River State Park

Bounded by Kent Avenue, N. Eighth Street, N. Ninth Street and the East River.

East River State Park's seven acres sit on the waterfront in Williamsburg, giving park-goers a spectacular view of the Manhattan skyline. The best way to approach the park while hitting the best stores is to start at the Marcy Avenue subway stop. From there, head to **Marlow & Daughters** (95 Broadway at Berry Street, (718) 388-5700). This Williamsburg butcher and fine foods store was opened in 2008 as a companion to Marlow & Sons café one block away. With house-cured meats, cheeses, great bread and other gourmet foods, the shop is perfect for picnickers, even though it's a fair distance from the park. The homemade country plié (\$10 per pound) makes for an outstanding picnic favor. Next, walk north on Bedford Avenue to the **Bedford Cheese Shop** (299 Bedford Ave. at N. Fourth Street, (718) 599-7888), which has been at this location since 2006. The cheeses are excellent, but the prices can be lofty. A manager suggested the Pleasant Ridge cow's milk cheese from Wisconsin (\$25 per pound) for picnickers. Finally, for the wine, walk two blocks further down Bedford to **Uva Wines and Spirits** (199 Bedford Ave. at N. Sixth Street, (718) 963-3939). The selection is enormous, including a perfect Dehonnem Muscadet white from France (\$12).

### Owls Head Park

Bounded by Shore and Colonial roads, 66th Street and Weisman Place.

This seaside beauty boasts a few locations where any seasoned picnic lover would be proud to plant his checkered sheet. Prime picnic spots lie all along the Dead Man's Hill, half of which has ample shade. If you enter the park on 68th Street and Shore Road, you will find a grassy knoll dubbed "The Overlook," which offers a beautiful view of the Narrows with a little less shade. Either way, there's no shortage of eats worthy of your picnic basket in Bay Ridge.

You haven't experienced the neighborhood's finest until you head over to **Sally and George's** (7809 Third Ave. between 78th and 79th streets, (718) 600-4615), which serves up fresh tabouleh, grape leaves, Lebanese

balls, and meat pies. **The Family Store** (6905 Third Ave. between 69th street and Orvington Avenue, (718) 748-0307) also offers prepared

Mediterranean foods with a menu that changes frequently, but includes lemon chicken, apricot- and mustard-glazed barbecued chicken, sausage and broccoli, and a cold salad. **Canigiano's** (6931 Third Ave. at Orvington Avenue, (718) 836-5521) makes its own fresh mozzarella, which is nice on a hero sandwich. **Petznager's Wine and Liquors** (123 Bay Ridge Ave. at Colonial Road, (718) 836-0044) is conveniently located one block away from the park's 68th Street entrance and offers a wide selection.

## OUTDOORS

### Bat man

Last summer, "The Dark Knight" was a big hit in theaters, but Brooklyn has the real thing. So put away your faded "Batman" comics and venture onto one of Prospect Park's bat tours over the next three Tuesday nights.

Yes, bats are scary, but that's what makes the tour such a great date night, said Eugene Patron, spokesman for the Prospect Park Alliance.

"You'll see a young guy holding a young girl who's a little scared," he said.

The bats are not always easy to find, so tour guide Paul Keim tends to have to use his bat magnet. It's not a flashlight — that would scare them away — but some kind of sonar device that clicks whenever bats are near.

Don't worry about bites or attacks, Keim said. The bats are completely harmless. And better than that, instead of biting us, they're chomping down on lots of nasty bugs.

So for one night, forget everything you thought you knew about bats and head out to Prospect Park. You can even ask Keim about the bat in his freezer.

"An Evening with the Bats," Prospect Park (enter at Ninth Street and Prospect Park West, (718) 965-8965), July 21, 28, and Aug. 4. Free for Prospect Park Alliance members.

— Robin Riskin

## MUSIC



### Mekon delta

Some "genuine legends" of the 1970s punk-rock scene are coming to the Bell House next Friday.

The Mekons are not your typical stud-wearing, hard-core-playing, mis-blasting headbangers. Their take on punk is infused with folk, country, reggae and electronica (think the Sex Pistols and the Clash mixed with David Byrne and Hank Williams). The newest album, "Natural" from 2007, even has an acoustic feel.

"The Mekons are genuine legends," said Jack McFadden, the Bell House's booker, who expects a sellout.

Jon Langford, one of the three founders, wasn't as boastful, but he did promise a great show — mostly because the Bell House stop is the last one on the current tour.

"You're lucky, cause we work things out as we go along," he said. "I imagine it will have gotten a lot louder and more raucous by the time we get to The Bell House."

The Mekons at the Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510) Friday, July 31, 7 pm. Tickets, \$15.

— Robin Riskin

## EVENT

### Board stiffs

Why waste your evenings in some trivial pursuit when you could be playing Trivial Pursuit — and winning a medal, too?

Yes, on Monday, the Board Game Olympics come to Union Hall in Park Slope.

The ultimate team sport includes preliminaries in Trivial Pursuit, Connect Four, and Jenga — and a final round in that giant solum of board games, Operation.

The games of the 2009 Board Olympiad are the brainchild of Ed Herro of Metro Metro, an event-planning company.

"Because of the nature of board games, you have to meet each other and have to talk," said Herro. "It's a very social event."

There won't be gold medals, but there will be plenty of carnival-style awards — and, of course, the glory that belongs to all Olympians, no matter their sport.

Next up for Metro Metro is a tournament in Kubb, a Swedish lawn game where players knock over wooden blocks by throwing wooden sticks at them.

"We're giving it to Brooklyn," said Herro. Board Game Olympics at Union Hall (702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400) Monday, July 27, 7 pm. For information, visit [www.metro-metroland.com/events.htm](http://www.metro-metroland.com/events.htm).

— Meredith Deliso

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**EDITORS' PICKS**

**FRIDAY July 24**

**Suspicious audience**  
Cyda Arber and Aaron Baker's interactive, cellphone-enabled theater doesn't just break the fourth wall, it has no walls at all! After assigning each of the six audience members a character, cast and Paul Simon won the male singing group a Grammy in 1987, and the troupe is still considered an emissary of South Africa at home and abroad, Office workers at the otherwise bland Metrotech complex in Downtown will benefit greatly thanks to a free concert by the group, right outside their windows.

**Graceland at Metrotech?**  
Ladysmith Black Mambazo's work with Paul Simon won the male singing group a Grammy in 1987, and the troupe is still considered an emissary of South Africa at home and abroad, Office workers at the otherwise bland Metrotech complex in Downtown will benefit greatly thanks to a free concert by the group, right outside their windows.

**Chill out**  
There's no one better at teaching a writing workshop for teenagers than Ned Vizzini, the author of "Teen Angst? Naah," and his debut classic, "Be More Chill," a high school story of crushes, drug experimentation, and putting tiny computers in your brain to become cool. Vizzini has been a legend ever since he lived across the hall from our editor.

**Rumble in DUMBO**  
DUMBO Fight Night is back, but this time, you can watch amateur boxers beat the Gownaus out of each other in the recently renovated, 7,000-square-foot archedway under the Manhattan Bridge. And there'll be the usual punches thrown by the great cocktails!

**7 pm. DUMBO Fight Night in the archedway (Water Street at Pearl Street in DUMBO). Tickets, \$25 standing, \$50 (seated). For info, visit www.dumboboy.com.**

**THURSDAY July 30**

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**SATURDAY August 1**

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## NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI. JULY 24**

**FIFTH AVENUE ART & PHOTO WALK:**  
Features over 40 artists in 40 locations throughout Labor Day. Free. Length of Fifth Avenue between Dean and 11th streets in Park Slope.

**BODICA ARTS FESTIVAL:** Festival held in Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens includes music, theater and more. See Web site for complete schedule. \$16. www.bodicafestival.com

**ART, FUSEWORKS EXHIBIT:** Free. 9 am-5 pm. Open Source Gallery (255 7th St. at Fifth Avenue in Green-Wood Heights), www.open-source-gallery.org

**GENDER EQUALITY FESTIVAL:** Entertainment, activities, information, free food, and prizes. This year's theme: "Brooklyn, We Go Hard!" Free. 10 am-3 pm. Cooper's Gore Park (corner of Greene Avenue and Union Street in Fort Greene), www.gencyc.com

**SUMMER DESIGN SALE:** Items from tabletop accessories to furniture. Free. 3 pm. Gallery 1889 (1065 Manhattan Ave. at Eagle Street in Greenpoint), (718) 302-3081, thegallery1889.com

**FILM, "ANIMATION WEEKEND":** Featuring the best from the Ottawa Animation Festival. \$11.50 seniors and students, \$20 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org

**MUSIC, CLYDE TATE:** Free. 6 pm. Medgar Evers College Amphitheater (Montgomery St. between Franklin and Bedford avenues in Crown Heights), (718) 273-9255, www.clydetate.com

**MUSIC, BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO:** The HOLMES BROTHERS: \$3 judge-guested. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park band shell (enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park), www.brooklynonline.com

**THEATER, "KING LEAR":** \$18 (seniors and children \$15). 8 pm. Gallery Rowan (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope), (212) 352-3101, galleryrowan.com

**FIREWORKS:** Free. 9:30 pm. Boardwalk Surf Avenue and W. 12th Street in Coney Island, www.coneyislandinfo.com

**SAT, JULY 25**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**TOUR, WRITERS AND RELIGION IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS:** \$15. Noon. Meet under the Columbus statue on the north side of Cadman Plaza West (Montague Street and Cadman Plaza West in Brooklyn Heights), (718) 938-1400, www.gottfamelive.com

**INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING:** Free. Noon. Prospect Park Audubon Center (enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park), (718) 289-3400, www.prospectpark.org/audubon

**TUES, JULY 28**  
City Council debate. Seven candidates will engage in a small-group on issue important to North Brooklynites. 7 pm. Williamsburg Northside Preschool (152 N. Fifth Street between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg), (718) 384-2245, www.napj.org

**TO list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@brooklynpaper.com**

**SAT, JULY 25**

**Red Hook Community Festival.** Free health testing, plus arts and music program. Noon. Sovereign Bank (498 Columbia St., at Loraine Street in Red Hook), (718) 965-3100.

**MON, JULY 27**  
Community Board 2 Executive Committee meeting. 6 pm. Long Island University (1 University Pl., Flatbush at DeKalb ave. near W. 12th Street in Downtown Brooklyn), (718) 596-5410.

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**TO list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@brooklynpaper.com**

**WED, JULY 29**  
Empire State Development Corporation Atlantic Yards hearing. State agency offers two evening sessions: 2-5 pm and 6-8 pm. City Tech's Klitgaard Auditorium (285 Jay St., at Tillary Street in Downtown Brooklyn), (212) 803-3740.

**THURS, JULY 30**  
Empire State Development Corporation Atlantic Yards hearing. State agency offers two evening sessions: 2-5 pm and 6-8 pm. City Tech's Klitgaard Auditorium (285 Jay St., at Tillary Street in Downtown Brooklyn), (212) 803-3740.

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# Cons from pros

Writer explores the pain behind comedy

What makes something funny? And, more important, how can you get your screenplay made? Park Slope writer Mike Sacks wanted to know the answer to both questions, so he called up dozens of our top humor writers — from TV, movies, books, stories and even Kazakh-

## CHECKIN' IN WITH...

Harold Ramis ("Ghostbusters") to Marx Brothers writer Irving Brecher to Woody Allen's pal Marshall Brickman to "Borat" co-writer Dan Mazer, laughmasters offered tips, secrets and stories from their years at the top. This week, Sacks checked in with Editor (and failed playwright) Gersh Kuntzman ("SUV: The Musical") on the eve of the publication of his book, "And Here's the Kicker: Conversations with 21 Top Humor Writers on Their Craft."

**Gersh Kuntzman:** Your book is an awesome compendium of interviews with some really big names in comedy, but it's also very sad. It's filled with a lot of pessimism. If I was a writer just starting out, I'd probably hang myself.

**Mike Sacks:** Well, you have to remember that the personality of comedy writers is that they're never completely happy with themselves or their careers. Even Larry Gelbart still thinks he needs to achieve something to be a success. He doesn't feel like he's made it. Larry Gelbart: I was working in a record store until I was 25. That's truly "not making it."

**GK:** But I mean, a lot of the interviews make it seem impossible to become a top comedy writer, even if you're good.

**MS:** I definitely did not want to discourage people from going into it. All of the people I interviewed had a very different path to success, but the good thing is that there do seem to be some basics: network like hell, keep writing innovative stuff, create comedy that's based on characters.

**GK:** Innovative stuff? But most of the movies and TV shows that get made are complete crap — and I say that as someone in newspapers, which, as you know, are infallible!

**MS:** Yes, many shows are not good, but all of the people working on those shows are playing the game and writing more-innovative, interesting stuff on the side, waiting to get into a group or a situation that will respect it. And remember, if you're truly unique, it's hard in any profession, not just writing.



**Funny guy:** Park Slope writer Mike Sacks gets serious about comedy in his book, "...And Here's the Kicker," which profiles dozens of the nation's top humor writers.

**MS:** (pause for reflection)  
**GK:** This is a very modern book. How do you think it would have been different if you interviewed writers from the earlier Golden Age of Comedy, say in the 1950s?  
**MS:** Brecher and Gelbart both said that the difference today is that you can write anything, which is not necessarily a good thing. The parameters are gone, and having so much freedom makes it harder. And Gelbart also talked about how hungry his generation of writers, a lot of them sons of immigrants, were to make people laugh. They had street smarts, whereas today, you can take courses in Harvard.

**GK:** Another thread that comes through in the book is how nuts some of these people are. Do you have to be crazy to be a great humorist?

**MS:** It doesn't hurt. Think about it: in order to stand out as a writer, you have to think differently from normal people. Then, to be at the top, you have to be thinking differently from the other people who are thinking differently. You can go mad. Steve Martin is not your normal guy. Albert Brooks, not normal.

**GK:** Many of the writers talk about not fitting in as kids. Man, you should've seen my hair back then. I definitely didn't fit in. Yet I never became great. That's not, by the way, a question that you need to answer.

**MS:** It is true that not too many people in TV were incredibly popular as teenagers. At some point, they didn't fit in, which put them outside the mainstream and forced them to figure out what they do well. It's like learning an instrument. You can't learn it and do it well without devoting a lot of time to it. And that means you'll be a bit isolated.

**GK:** They seem a bit sad, too.

**MS:** Well, writing comedy all day long is a job. If you do anything all day every day, you'd get bored. Even if you were f-ing all day, you'd get bored.

**GK:** Sounds like you were interviewing my old girlfriends, too.

**MS:** Mike Sacks's book, "And Here's the Kicker" (Writer's Digest Books), is available at BookCourt (163 Court St., between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). Visit [www.andheresthekicker.com](http://www.andheresthekicker.com) for news about readings and appearances.



**Faith Black and Vandal Truong** are part of the literary basketball league. Actual games are played with balls, not books.

# 'Word' up

New literary basketball league is booked solid

By Jacob Kleinman

Are you desperately searching for a way to combine books and basketball, the two loves of your life? Wait, don't answer.

Just because you think you're ready for the Word bookstore basketball league doesn't mean the league is ready for you. First, you'll need to take a quiz:

1. Who wrote "Ulysses"?  
2. What is the best selling book of all time?

3. What is J.D. Salinger's most well-known book?  
4. Name a book that has been banned in the United States in the last 100 years.

5. What is your favorite book? OK, they're not tough questions, but they do set the tone for something unusual, even by Brooklyn's standards. Both the application and the book-

themed league are the brainchild of Stephanie Anderson, owner of Word bookstore, and, as such, the league's referee. She says the league started as a joke, but a quick post on the store's blog received more than a hundred responses.

"I had no idea so many people could answer those questions and wanted to play basketball," she said.

And play they did. Games are serious and fast-paced, without being overly competitive.

"It's so much fun, everyone is low key," said Faith Black, a book editor for Avalon Books and captain of her team, "Mrs. Balloway."

Other teams include "The Purple Pros" and the "Virginia Wolves."

The city game — with an urbane approach.

Games every Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday at 7:30 pm on the basketball court across from Word bookstore (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096).

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**BIG DADDY KANE**  
THE BIG DADDY KANE SYMPHONY  
RAHZE

# Monster hash

*This corned beef hash is a classic*

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

**C**orned beef hash is that most maligned of breakfast dishes. A truck-stop classic, hash is all too often served up, oatmeal-style, with all the character of a bowl of gray mush. Typically, even the corned beef itself is an afterthought, a bit of salty, mealy flavoring added to give the overcooked potatoes a bit of taste.

Fortunately, there is Dizzy's, Park Slope's self-described "finer



**The Best Thing We Ate This Week**

diner," where the corned beef hash lives up to its billing.

Musky? Never. The corned beef isn't merely omnipresent here, but instead of being cut up into tiny bits that compete for playing time with the potatoes, Dizzy's shreds the brisket into long, stringy cords that retain the essential quality of

corned beef.

Yes, there are bits of potatoes, but they never serve as anything except a silent partner to the chewy, crispy-on-the-outside corned beef.

Put two poached eggs on top of it and you'll feel like you died and went to the Great Truckstop in the Sky — not the kooky one by the Interstate, mind you, but the one where the angels eat.

Dizzy's (511 Ninth St., at Eighth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 499-1966). Hash is available as a main course at brunch, but as a side dish on weekdays.



Hash it out: The corned beef hash at Dizzy's in Park Slope is transcendent.



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The Grecian Corner on Seventh Avenue is staying put.

## Hot 'Corner'!

Slope Greek diner will be back!

By Shannon Geis  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Bucking the trend of so many Mom and Pop diners in the city, the owners of the beloved Grecian Corner on Seventh Avenue say they really are just renovating.

Many Slopes panicked when the tell-tale white paint was slathered all over the windows, and workers, not cooks, were seen scurrying to and

fro. But there's no cause for alarm. "We will be back!" said Steve, an employee with the restaurant, which has been at the corner of Fourth Street for decades.

The work should take about a month, he added, heartening all who love mousaka, classic diner coffee, and the restaurant's 14 omelets named after Aegean islands (try the Crete — with fox, onion and spinach).

## New face for Botanic Garden

By Jacob Kleinman  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is about to break ground on a new, transparent, glass-walled structure — but it's not a new greenhouse, it's a spiffy new Washington Avenue entrance.

The visitor's center, which will open in 2011, will include a new gift shop, snack bar, orientation room for tours, an oval-shaped room for special events, and, of course, panoramic views of the garden.

"We're enhancing the visitor experience," said Frank Mantel, vice president of facilities, planning and construction. "The services we provided will be given even more prominence, larger space and more resources."

The 22,000-square-foot building will be constructed using recycled materials and will feature a green roof, making it the garden's first environmentally friendly building.

The living roof is an example of how the visitor's center is "combining



The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is moving ahead with a renovation of its Washington Avenue entrance.

exceptional beauty with a level of environmentally sustainable measures that assure this is a model of how to build in the 21st century," said Frederick Bland, board chairman.

"The new visitor center will physi-

cally embody our institutional commitment to conservation," added Scott Medbury, president of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The new building is just one of several changes coming to the garden

in celebration of its centennial. There will also be new space devoted to herb garden, a woodland garden, and a water garden in time for the year-long birthday celebration.

## Theater group finds home — with help from The Paper

By Ben Muessegger  
The Brooklyn Paper

All the world's a stage — but thanks to The Brooklyn Paper, an acclaimed Shakespeare troupe now has one that it can call its own.

After getting priced out of Manhattan, the Genesis Repertory Ensemble — a celebrated company known for setting the Bard's works in different historical periods — struggled to find a permanent home in Bay Ridge.

A Brooklyn Paper article about the 25-person company's plight helped the thespians find a home on Bay 4th Street in Bensonhurst.

"This would not have been possible without [The Brooklyn Paper]," said



Mary Elizabeth McCar and Jay Michaels' Genesis Repertory Ensemble finally has a home.

Genesis Board of Directors chairman Jay Michaels, whose troupe recently inked a deal that will allow the company to stage shows at a 350-seat theater in the Block Institute — a school for individuals with special needs.

"Our first conversation with the Institute started after they read the article and wanted to show us the space," Michaels said.

The actors are already planning their first shows in their new home, which include a rendition of the original stage version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and an adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" set in Brooklyn where the star-crossed lovers are Jewish and Palestinian.

As a part of the deal, Genesis Repertory Ensemble actors will teach classes and develop programming for Block Institute students. "It's wonderful to be able to bring theater to people who might not normally have the chance to get it," said Michaels. "It's absolutely marvelous, it's a miracle."

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

Slope, (718) 499-2622, www.puppetspace.com

**THEATER, "HAMLETS":** Piper Theater Company presents Shakespeare's real classic. Free. 2 pm. Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195), www.theoldstonehouse.org

**THEATER, "KING LEAR":** See Friday, July 24.

**THEATER, "ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD":** Piper Theater Company presents Tom Stoppard's Shakespearean comedy. Free. 7 pm. Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195), www.theoldstonehouse.org

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**P5 321 FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, July 25.

**BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, July 25.

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** See Saturday, July 25.

**BROOKLYN INDIK MARKET:** See Saturday, July 25.

**FARMERS MARKET:** 11 am-5 pm. 411 B'way Park, 4th Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope.

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** Free. 11 am-6 pm. Under the Brooklyn Bridge (Water Street and New Dock Street in DUMBO), www.brownstoner.com/brooklynflea

**OUTDOOR ART SHOW AND SALE:** 11 am-4 pm. Narrow Botanical Gardens (Shore Road and Bay Ridge Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-9848), www.narrowcity.org

**OTHER**

**FIFTH AVENUE ART & PHOTO WALK:** See Friday, July 24.

**ART, SLIGHTLY IN SINE:** See Saturday, July 25.

**FILM, ANIMATION WEEK-END:** See Friday, July 24.

**FILM, "A WALK IN THE CLOUDS":** Part of Entocia on Court (347 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 243-1000), www.entociaoncourt.com

**FILM, "FRIDAY":** Outdoor movie screening. Free. 8 pm. Habana Outpost (157 Fulton St. at Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 858-9500), www.eccecity.com

**MON, JULY 27**

**BOCCA ARTS FESTIVAL:** See Friday, July 24.

**ART, FUSEWORKS EXHIBIT:** See Friday, July 24.

**FILM, LESBIAN FILM SCREENINGS:** Free. 7 pm. Lesbian History Archives (484 14th St. between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 768-DYKE), www.lesbianhistoryarchives.com

**THEATER, "KING LEAR":** 7:30 pm. See Friday, July 24.

**MUSIC, ANITA BAKER AND**

**CHARLIE WILSON:** Part of the M.K. Concert Series. Free. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field (Brooklyn Ave. between Rutland Road and Windup Street in Crown Heights, (718) 222-6600), www.brooklynconcerts.com

**TUES, JULY 28**

**FIFTH AVENUE ART & PHOTO WALK:** See Friday, July 24.

**ART, FUSEWORKS EXHIBIT:** See Friday, July 24.

**BROOKLYN CYCLES VS. ABERDEEN:** 58-515 5 pm. Keyport Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island, (718) 449-8477), www.brooklyn-cycles.com

**OUTDOOR PILATES:** Fitness First Park (Plymouth Street and Main Street in DUMBO, (718) 802-0603), www.brooklynandgo.com

**POETRY WORKSHOP:** With Mike Lee. Bring a poem. Free. 7 pm. Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at 7th Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9074)

**MUSIC, THE SHAPSOODY PLAYERS:** Motown hits and tunes from the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. Free. 7 pm. Asper Levy Park (Bendish (W. 17th Street and Surf Avenue, right off the boardwalk in Coney Island, (718) 832-9074)

**WED, JULY 29**

**FILM, "WILD AT HEART":** Part of the SummerScreen Film Series. Free. dusk. McCarran Park (Park ballfields at Lorimer Street and Delgado Avenue in Greenpoint), www.summerscreen.org

**FIFTH AVENUE ART & PHOTO WALK:** See Friday, July 24.

**FILM, "I KNEW IT WAS YOU":** Documentary featuring late great John Cusack. 511. Brooklyn Academy of Music (311 Fulton Ave. near 5th St. in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4000), www.bam.org

**SPORTS, BROOKLYN CYCLES VS. STATEN ISLAND:** See Tuesday, July 28.

**ART, FUSEWORKS EXHIBIT:** See Friday, July 24.

**THEATER, "KING LEAR":** 8 pm. See Friday, July 24.

**MUSIC, SUSAN THORPE AND ZEENA PARKINS:** 515 8 pm. Issue Project Room (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 330-0313), www.issueprojectroom.org

**THURS, JULY 30**

**FIFTH AVENUE ART & PHOTO WALK:** See Friday, July 24.

**FILM, "I KNEW IT WAS YOU":** See Wednesday, July 29.

**ART, FUSEWORKS EXHIBIT:** See Friday, July 24.

**MUSIC, LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBOZ:** Part of the BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival. Free. Noon. MetroTech Commons (Myrtle Avenue and 11th Street in Downtown Brooklyn), www.bam.org

**FILM, "TO CATCH A THIEF":** Cary Grant and Grace Kelly in an Alfred Hitchcock Part of the Movies with a View series. Free. 6 pm. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park (Plymouth Street and Main Street in DUMBO, (718) 802-0603), www.brooklyn-bridgepark.org

**SAT, AUG. 1**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**INTRODUCTION TO DRUG WATCHING:** See Saturday, July 25.

**TOUR, GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY AT TWILIGHT:** Led by Big Chon Walking Tours. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 5 pm. Greenwood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (212) 439-1090), www.brooklyn.org

**PERFORMANCE**

**THEATER, "KING LEAR":** 2 pm. See Friday, July 24.

**THEATER, "THE SECOND PIPE OF DESIRE":** A staged reading of David Miller's new play. Free. 7 pm. Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195), www.theoldstonehouse.org

**FILM, "ANDY WARHOL'S SCREEN TESTS":** With live accompaniment by Dean & Britta. \$3 (suggested). 7:30 pm. Prospect Park band shell (Enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Prospect Park, www.brooklyn.org)

**MUSIC, THE FORMS, PRETTY & NICE AND THE VALLEY ARENA:** Presented by Fiction NYC. \$10. 810 8th Avenue (622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 355-3388), www.valleyarena.com

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**P5 321 FLEA MARKET:** See Saturday, July 25.

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS IN MCCARRAN PARK:** See Saturday, July 25.

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** See Saturday, July 25.

**BROOKLYN INDIK MARKET:** See Saturday, July 25.

**TELECA TRUNK SHOW:** Meet the designers, see their latest creations, and enjoy delicious treats. Free. 1 pm. Old Stone House (110 Meserole Ave. between Manhattan Avenue and Leonard Street in Greenpoint), www.oldstonehouse.com

**OTHER**

**FILM, "I KNEW IT WAS YOU":** See Wednesday, July 29.

**ART, SLIGHTLY IN SINE:** See Saturday, July 25.

**FASHION SHOW AND PARTY:** 5:25-7 pm. The Dumbo Loft (115 Water St. at Washington Street in Brooklyn Heights), www.istatashowevent.com

**DUMBO NIGHT NIGHT:** Sanctioned amateur boxing matches. \$25 (\$50 reserved ring seating). 7 pm. The Archway (Archway Place at Water Street in DUMBO)

**ART CLOSING RECEPTION:** Garden party for the closing of Tropic of Cancer's Disaster Kit installation. Free. 7 pm. Space 414 (414 Van Brunt St. at Coffey Street in Red Hook), www.space414.com

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# The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

## Notes from the underground

**S**martmon pulled a sneaky, big time. This time, the 12-year-old Oh So Fussy One and his friend, Lenny, who was just 11-1/2, took the F train to Coney Island. Alone. Take that, Lenore Skene! Smartmon let her 12-year-old daughter ride all the way from Park Slope to Stillwell Avenue. To paraphrase Talking Heads, "This ain't no party. This ain't no disco. This ain't no fooling around on the train from Bloomingdale's." This all goes back to when newspaper columnist Lenore Skene became Parent Public Enemy Number One when she let her 9-year-old take the subway from Bloomingdale's to their Upper East Side home.

By himself. She dared to write about it, and the ensuing hysteria landed Skene on all the talk shows defending her seemingly indefensible position. She even got a book contract — all because she let her little baby (just a few years out of Mommy and Me classes) ride the subway. She must be chastised! She's worse than that woman who drowned her kids in the tub!

Until Skene, that is. On this glorious July day, Smartmon was already in Coney Island visiting her friend at a rehabilitation hospital on Surf Avenue when she arranged to meet the girls at the subway station. It all went perfectly well: the girls arrived without incident and, with Smartmon, they walked to the Boardwalk.

The girls wanted to ride the Wonder Wheel and the Cyclone and do whatever else girls like to do in Coney Island. And of course, they didn't want Smartmon around. So Smartmon told them she'd "disappear" for an hour so that they could be by themselves. "We'll meet in front of 'Shoot the Freak' at 4:15," she told them.

Smartmon sat in a Peruvian chicken stand on the Boardwalk, ate an avocado salad and read "Crime and Punishment" while the girls giggled around what's left of Coney Island. At 4:15, Smartmon met up with them at "Shoot the Freak" and did Skene one better. She told them that they could stay in Coney Island until 5:30 and that they were allowed to take the F train home. All by themselves.



By Louise Crawford

"And remember, don't talk to strangers — even ones who seem really nice," she said. Smartmon went back to Park Slope for her weekly shopping appointment. She kept checking her cell phone to see if there were any texts.

Nada. When she exited O'Farrell, she texted OSFO, "Are you coming home now?" No text this time, just a call.

"We missed our stop," OSFO said. "Where are you?" Smart-

mon asked with growing panic. "I don't know," OSFO said. "Well, I read a street sign or so something."

"We only have one ride left on the Metrocard."

"Explain what happened to the person in the token booth."

Smartmon patted herself on the back for that one — it's, until she heard from the whole thing was a good experience — a teaching moment as they call them. They OSFO asked.

East Broadway and Rutgers Street," she said. "You're in Chinatown in Manhattan. Get on the train going back to Brooklyn," Smartmon told her.

"We were very distressed," OSFO told her. "And then we realized that we'd been on the train for a long time and we got off at East Broadway. It's good we got off there, wasn't it?"

Smartmon knew that the whole thing was a good experience — a teaching moment as they call them. They OSFO asked.

## Wake me from 'Daydream'

**I**t is not very often that a theatrical production comes along that features a puppet, scenery-chewing acting, greatly truncated Shakespeare and all-around satirical meanness, and yet still doesn't fully satisfy me.

I know what you're thinking: "They Dooley is going to pull a show with puppets, over-acting, edited Shakespeare and silly puppets." Not entirely. The F.I.G. Arts' presentation of "Daydream" — a shortened version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" — in

Prospect Park's Imagination Playground is a flawed piece of children's theater.

First of all, the puppets. There may be no man alive with more of an appreciation of the puppetry arts and sciences, but you don't need to be a graduate of the String and Hand Institute of Technology to recognize that there's a problem when the humans who are voicing the puppets cannot be heard over the whirling bicyclist on the road alongside the playground.

Fortunately, the puppet acrobatics are only a minor problem, thanks to the outstanding overacting of Sean Kenin in the Oberon role and T. Scott Lilly as Bottom. Both men hurl themselves into their parts with giddy abandon, though Lilly's accents are, admittedly, all over the place, and he did not fully plumb the depths of Bottom's licentiousness, egotism and sexual wantonness (Oh, well, blame the kids).

But even with these two giants chewing up the playground, the action falls a bit flat, mostly due to the awkward setting — the audience on the playground floor — and a script that gives the Mechanicals too much stage

time and Bottom and Oberon a bit too little.

In the end, to space this lengthy Bard epic into 40 minutes, a little too much was lost.

That said, it's a must-see — if only for the delight of introducing your kids to Oberon

and Bottom, two of the Bard's greatest comic characters. "Daydream" ends its run on Saturday, June 25 at 11 am and Sunday, June 26 at 2 pm in the Imagination Playground in Prospect Park, at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 393-7733.

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## FAMILY CALENDAR

**FRI, JULY 24**  
11:30 am: Storytime. 12:30 pm: Movie Show (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviepost.com).

**MON, JULY 27**  
11:30 am: Storytime. See Friday, July 24.  
2 pm: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Show. A Ring Bros. version of the Ringling Brothers show. 3:10 pm: West 24th Street at the Boardwalk in Coney Island. (201) 507-9001, www.ringling.com.  
2 pm: Animal stories, games, costumes, crafts, and more for children. 4:11 pm: Part of the Children's Corner activities. Free. Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch (Grand Army Plaza at East 4th Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 287-3400 X101, www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/childrens-corner).

**TUES, JULY 28**  
5 pm: Cole Bros. See Monday, July 27.  
7 pm: Stories in the garden. With lemonade and cookies. Free. Hoyt Street Garden (Atlantic Avenue at Hoyt Street in Breezy Hill, (718) 237-0145).

**WED, JULY 29**  
10:30 am: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, July 24.  
10:30 am: Ballet Fiesta Mexicana. Ballet, Mexican dance, readings, theater, and puppetry for children ages 3-10. Free. Sunnyside Park playground (44th Street and Sunnyside Avenue in Sunnyside Park, (718) 437-1415).

**THURS, JULY 30**  
11 am: Dance Around with Nat. 12:30 pm: Movie Show (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviepost.com).

**FRI, JULY 31**  
11:30 am: Storytime. See Friday, July 24.  
2 pm: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, July 24.  
2 pm: Animal stories. See Friday, July 24.  
5 pm: Cole Bros. See Monday, July 27.

**SAT, JULY 25**  
10:30 am: Ringling Brothers. See Friday, July 24.  
11 am: "Daydream." Shortened version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for kids. Free. Imagination Playground (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, www.prospectpark.org).

**SUN, JULY 26**  
12:30 pm: Puppet show, "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." 5:15 pm: "The Incredibles." Free. East River State Park (entrance at Kent Avenue and N. Eighth Street in Williamsburg).

**MON, JULY 27**  
11:30 am: Storytime. See Friday, July 24.  
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**Dooley's**  
Noted  
By Thurston Dooley III  
with more of an appreciation of the puppetry arts and sciences, but you don't need to be a graduate of the String and Hand Institute of Technology to recognize that there's a problem when the humans who are voicing the puppets cannot be heard over the whirling bicyclist on the road alongside the playground.

## BLOTTER...

**Continued from page 4**  
State Street on July 8. The victim said he had parked the car near Third Avenue at noon, but when he got back seven hours later, the car had been broken into and \$1,500 in electronics had been stolen.

• A Mercedes Benz was stolen overnight on July 12 from the corner of Midway Street and Cadman Plaza West. The victim said he parked the car at 10:15 pm and returned five days later to find the Honda gone.

**Double trouble**  
A hard-working thief burgled two adjacent apartments on Duffield Street on July 17.

Sometime between 6 and 10:30 pm, the thief entered the first apartment and got close to \$7,000 in electronics. Minutes later, he got into the second unit in the building, which is between Concord and Nassau streets, and made off with a \$3,000 MacBook Pro.

**72ND PRECINCT Windsor Terrace**  
A kitchen window burglar cooked up quite the heist on Van Brunt Street on July 16.

While the resident, 29, was not home from 4 to 6 pm, the intruder clambered through the kitchen porch and stole an iPhone, iPod, laptop, a Nokia cellphone, digital camera, silver ring and \$66 from the homeowner between Pioneer and Coney streets.

**68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge**  
A crafty thief broke into a woman's 72nd Street apartment on July 15 and got a computer.

The victim left her apartment, which is between Second and Third avenues, at around 4 pm and returned four hours later to find her apartment ransacked and the Hewlett-Packard laptop missing.

**Granny con**  
A thief conned a granny into sending him more than \$6,000 by posing as his grandson on July 15.

The senior — who lives on 80th Street between 10th and 11th avenues — received a call from her supposed grandson, who told the 86-year-old

the duo approached him and demanded his money.

One smack him in the face with a bicycle and his partner in crime punched him in the mouth before stealing his wallet, which contained \$40.

**Bad with kids**  
A second stole a woman's purse in Red Hook Park on July 11 after trying for the affection of her infant.

The mother, 42, said the purse-snatcher was initially friendly to her baby, but snatched her purse near the Court and Bay Street entrance to the park at 3:40 pm.

The victim tried to impede the thief by grabbing his shirt, but he freed himself by knocking her to the ground. The pocketbook contained \$200 and various banking cards, as well as her driver's license.

**Can't take heat**  
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woman that he was involved in a car accident and needed money for repairs.

Ever the loving granny, she sent the money without hesitation — only to discover she'd been duped.

**72ND PRECINCT Prospect Heights**  
Double murder  
Two young men were gunned down as they sat in a car at the corner of Washington and Sterling Place on July 18.

The 10:40 pm shooting took place shortly after a largely attended block party nearby, and cops believe that the incident stemmed from an earlier argument.

Darrian Delk, 19, was fatally shot in the right side of his torso, and Vasek Rock, 23, was killed with a bullet to the head.

**Repeat offense**  
For the second time in two months, a perp broke into the same Prospect Place building and ransacked an apartment on July 15.

The thief entered the apartment, which is between Van Brunt and Underhill avenues, through the fire escape window at 2:30 am and stole a laptop computer and \$1,800.

The neighboring apartment was robbed in similar fashion last month.

**Car-ridden away**  
Cars on Park Place were easy pickings for thieves on July 18.

In the first case, an electronics-craving creep broke the driver's-side window of a 2005 Ford Escape that had been parked between Vanderbilt and Underhill avenues at 11 pm. That thief got away with a navigation system and an iPhone charger.

The same night, but one block away from Carlton and Vanderbilt avenues, a thief took a real sweet ride — a 1997 Plymouth Breeze that had been parked there at 10:40 pm.

— Robert Voris

## PIG HEAD

**Continued from page 1**  
year near the corner, attributed the pair's loud head to "Goth kids having fun in the neighborhood."

But the cigar and rum discovered at the site might mean that the hog head was a gift to Ekegas, a god of the "crossroads," who is known as a trickster and is often affiliated with death and cemeteries, he added.

Whoever the sacrifice was for, the pig probably didn't die in vain — it's likely that worshippers celebrated with

by offering a pig instead of another animal, worshippers might be trying to appease the gluttonous thunder god, Chang, or by placing the offering at a cemetery they may have been attempting to convince the goddess of the dead, Oya, to put a curse on an enemy.

You want the person to end up in the cemetery so you can offer the sacrifice at the cemetery.

That severed and roasted pig head showed up on Sixth Avenue and 23rd Street, was part of a Santeria ritual.

## PHONY...

**Continued from page 1**  
I know there are those who would like to see lower buildings on the south side of Surf Avenue. We just couldn't make this work," said Recchia, who was involved in negotiations.

Still, the 13-2 approval by the Council's Land Use Committee does not guarantee the passage of the proposal before the full council on Wednesday, because the city has still not reached an agreement with Sitt.

Recchia added that talks are ongoing and suggested there could be last-minute revisions that would satisfy some remaining critics. I'll take some work, those critics suggested.

"We're very disappointed that the necessary recommendations to fix the city

abrogated dinner before leaving the offering.

There is one form of sacrifice the animal and then you consume it as a community meal, and there is another where you transfer your bad vibes to the animal and you don't eat it," said De La Torre, author of "Santeria: The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America."

"I see this as more of an offering for thanksgiving for something that occurred, or an offering to appease the orisha to do something — not a transferring of bad energy."

The offering also eliminated the possibility that occurred, or an offering to appease the orisha to do something — not a transferring of bad energy."

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## OUR OPINION

# Pick up your trash

**P**rospect Park is for everyone. But in the wake of Sunday's disastrous — and, apparently, illegal — party by a local event planning company, the vital democratic concept of a free, open and inviting public park has unfortunately been lost.

So here's another equally important and equally democratic concept: Users of the park should pick up their own damn trash!

Not since a 6-year-old girl got a warning letter from the Sanitation Department for making a drawing with sidewalk chalk, has a single Brooklyn Paper story elicited so much passion from our readers as our online coverage of the MIH Ventures' "Heatwave" barbecue.

Most commentators blamed the right people: the people who left piles of trash when they left.

But others tried to use the party as an excuse to dump their own trash, suggesting that "outsiders" shouldn't be allowed to gather in such numbers in Park Slope's own backyard.

So it bears repeating: No one group

**The park is for everyone — but everyone needs to pick up his trash!**

or neighborhood owns the park. It is for everyone to enjoy.

But this also bears repeating: Pick up your trash!

The Parks Department now says it will demand clean-up reimbursement from MIH Ventures, which is fair, given that the company evaded park rules by not getting a permit for such a large gathering.

But the agency needs to go further. Park enforcement officers need to write summonses for illegal activities such as barbecuing in non-permitted areas or

do a better job cleaning up the park, no matter who is to blame for the mess. On weekends, the park is all of Brooklyn's playground — rightly so — but by Monday morning, it typically reverts to being just a neighborhood park, albeit a big one, and needs to be as clean as every other neighborhood's greenspaces.

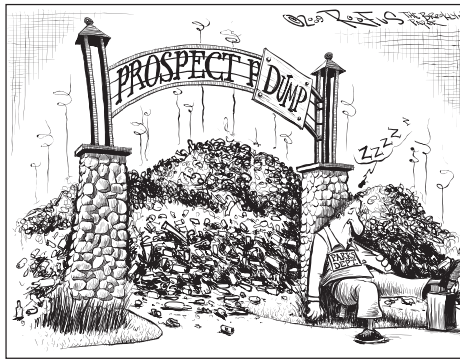
More workers may be needed, but in the short-term, it's obvious that large trash bins are required on weekends, when existing garbage cans overflow. Advance planning is crucial, too. The city claimed that it could not have known about the MIH Ventures party because the group did not request a permit, but as our story points out, the party was heralded all across the Internet for weeks, including a promise that the party would be "taking over Prospect Park!"

There's no excuse for not being prepared.

That said, the city didn't welcome the trash. The park users did.

Of course, they're all welcome to use the park. But they need to pick up after themselves. It's that simple.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



## WEB CHATTER

# Our readers debate 'The Meadow of Shame'

We're not the only ones all fired up about the trash in Prospect Park. Our online article about the mess left behind by the apparently illegal MIH Ventures "Heatwave" barbecue this weekend ("Holy crap! Prospect Park was even worse this weekend!" online, July 20) and a subsequent follow-up ("Update! Parks Dept. will go after the dirty birds!" online, July 21) received a bevy of comments from our readers. Here's a fair synopsis:

It's time for metal Dumpsters in Prospect Park! What's more unightly, a few green Dumpsters or acres of land that look

more like a landfill than a park?

**Kimberly S., Park Slope**  
Fire the parks administrator and replace her with someone who knows how to keep things in order and clean. Enough talk already.

**Al Pankin, Downtown**

This is one of the many events of the young upscale urban community in Brooklyn each year. Due to its growing popularity, those with less-than-stellar intentions have begun to frequent it.

I know this is not only the fault of the crowd, but the Park administration has been consistently lax in its duties this summer.

That said, next year a new venue or proper paperwork should be in order.

**Kathy, Clinton Hill**

It is irresponsible, naive, and frankly pathetic to say that the disgusting mess of trash left behind by the MIH Ventures crowd was not the fault of MIH Ventures and the revelers they invited. The parks service and our tax dollars should in no way be responsible for cleaning up after

MIH Ventures' illegal party in Prospect Park. The promoters plea to "clean up your trash" and "treat this park like home" displays their complete lack of foresight and planning and, frankly, their negligence. If this is the way the MIH Ventures' guests treat their homes then no wonder they had to have their illegal party in the park.

MIH Ventures knew exactly what they were doing and can in no way plead ignorance or a take over by uninited guests. They had alcohol and a live DJ along with the food and drinks they planned ahead for the crowds.

The promoters should not only be fined, and charged with all the violations that they racked up, but they should also be forced (either through legal channels or by public opinion) to help clean up the vodka bottles, plastic plates, cups, forks, napkins, rib bones and soda cans and bottles that were still blanketing the meadow [on Monday].

**Kristyn, Park Slope**

Kristyn, you are not stating facts! The group did not provide alcohol to anyone and did not provide beverages in glass bottles. You were not present. You don't know what you're talking about.

**Brooklyn Visitor, Bronx**

I saw the alcohol and there are pictures of it. Whether it provided it or not is beside the point. There were enough giant bottles of vodka lying on the ground to make it clear that it was at least condoned and definitely not hidden or cleaned up.

**Kristyn, Park Slope**

They need to pay for the clean-up. The reality is that they knew it was going to be over 1,000 people (as cited in the e-mail) and should have either had their own volunteers assigned to clean-up duty or gotten the proper permits. Now, they need to pay the city for the mess they left. Plain and simple!

**Realista, Harlem**  
I went to the event for the first time and was shocked to see fire pits with little children running around, people basically bartending, and so many people cramped in to what

would be consider a fire hazard and in an enclosed space. I am from California and this sort of display would never be allowed.

I was with a friend, but was basically anxious to leave because I felt unsafe in such a hazardous environment. Secondly, it turned into a serious meat market. That is not what I call fun.

**Tammy, out of town**

Be easy, Tammy, or stay home next time. You'll be safe there — one less person's trash to worry about. Maybe they underestimated their popularity, but the Parks Department needs to be accountable as well.

**Lila, Prospect Heights**

MIH has held this event for years and has never received such flack. While I understand the concern of the left over trash and lack of respect for the park, the blame cannot fully be on the promoters. At one point, they had people walking around with trash bags urging people to dispose of their trash accordingly and there were continuous pleas for people to pick up after

themselves.

If this is the first time anyone has had to complain then that is surely a testament to what they've been able to do for a group of people (albeit a large group) looking to have a great day in the park.

It became bigger than ever and was hard to contain. So I understand the frustration, but the blame is not being placed fully in the right direction.

**Miss D, Crown Heights**

MIH, we love you guys. In the case of any fines being levied against MIH, you guys be sure to get the word out where donations can be sent to offset any such fines.

**Wayne-o, Park Slope**

MIH's own invitation indicated they were expecting more than 1,000 attendees, and were planning on "taking over the park" at an unpermitted and thus illegal event. It was irresponsible, pre-planned and a disgrace. I hope they lose major clients over this debacle.

**Meredith, Park Slope**

Pathetic. Only the hipsters going to Celebrate Brooklyn

have to follow the rules of the park. Seems like everyone else is OK to have a free-for-all.

**Noname, Carroll Gardens**

I was there and it was one of the most beautiful gatherings of black professionals that I have seen in a while. Everyone who attended had a great time at an event that occurred without incident.

Tammy, I'm sorry you felt threatened or fearful, but you probably haven't spent time around a large number of educated black people. Contrary to media reports, we do exist.

**Michelle, Prospect Heights**

Slobs are slobs, no matter what race, gender, ethnic origin or education. I've seen slobs on pristine beaches in East Hampton, yacking on cellphones while straining junk all over the place. Parts of Brooklyn that are allegedly "notorious" are home to some of the cleanest blocks in the city. It's all a matter of personal responsibility.

**DoTheRightThing, Sunset Park**

## Send a letter

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**By mail:** Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One MetroTech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

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